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## CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SIAMESE TWINS

Bolton's account of the Siamese twins in 1830 (G. B. Bolton, *Philos. Trans.*, 1830, 177-186) suggests an overlapping of consciousness which is not unlike the overlapping of two hysterically separated consciousnesses. It will be recalled that the twins, Chang and Eng, were possessed of entirely distinct personalities and sensory equipment; only when the band uniting them was punctured by a needle at its very middle did both shrink, whereas half-an-inch to either side the prick brought response in only the one or the other. Nevertheless Bolton thought he found some community,—an overlapping "unconscious" and a distinct "conscious" perhaps he would have said to-day! He wrote:

"They always fall asleep at the same moment, and it is impossible to wake one without also arousing the other. When they were at Boston, Doctor Skey, Surgeon General to the British Army, entered their bed-room at midnight on three successive nights when both were asleep: on each occasion he touched one and was answered by the other, both awaking at the same instant, inquiring why they were disturbed.

"The experiment has also been repeated in this country, and with the same result. On my tickling one of them, the other told me to desist, though he stated that he did not feel the touch, and it was quite clear that he could not see me tickle his brother.

"On their voyage to England one of them had the tooth-ache, during three days and nights, and suffered great pain, with loss of sleep, which last evil was shared by his brother, both remaining awake. On the 16th of December Mr. Hale went into their bed-room when they were asleep. Eng was restless and tossing about in bed, while Chang was screaming. He awoke them, and on inquiring what ailed them, Eng replied that he was dreaming about his mother, and Chang said that a man was cutting off the long hair from his head. These different dreams appear to have occurred simultaneously" (p. 184).

E. G. B.